

BLUAC Steering Minutes
Bigfork and Lakeside Meeting with Ken Weaver
Montana State University
February 16, 2006

In Attendance: Bob Gousuch, Dori Gorsuch, Jerry Thornburg (Lakeside), Edd Blackler, Leslie Budewitz, Paul J Rana, Clarice Ryan, Paul Coverdell, Sally Janover, Owen Sutherland, Gary Ridderhoff, John Bourquin, Craig Wagner, Pat Wagner, Brett Thuma, Al Johnson, Doug Averill, Buz Meyer

Vice Chairman Buz Meyer called the meeting to order at 12:10. He turned the meeting over to Ken Weaver, consultant from the Montana State University on Incorporation of towns.

His first item on the agenda was :Guaranteed Entitlement Share Possibilities. Revenue from the state; an expert Ken consulted, stated basically not available. Any money coming from the state to the county, the county will want to use for its own finances and won't be willing to share with an incorporated city. HB124

Second Item on the Agenda: Resort Community V. Resort Area

Resort Community is an incorporated community with a resort tax and a resort area would be a community with just a resort tax. Incorporation requires a police dept with liability insurance issues and a mayor which in turn means a loan to be able to finance. A resort area with an elected board of directors has important power but still doesn't give final authority with land use. Doug Averill asked for other solutions we might consider to be able to control our own community. Ken mentioned the Fire and Water Districts have a say in communities but the final zoning issues lies in the hands of the commissioners.

Third item on the agenda was the budget for incorporation. See attached.: John Bourquin has also worked the budget for Bigfork according to Ken Weaver's Model Budget, See this attachment also. Some of the possible implications, plain incorporated town would have higher property taxes, if they also had a resort tax, property taxes might not be as high.

Ken also mentioned our incorporated area could go larger with continuous areas and splitting into wards. We could have 1200 people in 3 wards.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20

Announcements:

Government Committee Meeting at 11:00 February 23, 2006
Bethany Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall (basement)

Pat Wagner, Acting Secretary